

It is time to break through the size limitation of TVs that has controlled the availability of closed captions. Currently TVs whose display screens are less than 13 inches are not required to have the decoder chip that permits the display of closed captions. There is a much wider array of TVs available today than was available when FCC established the 13-in. rule. I discovered the usefulness of my hand-held battery-powered portable TV during a tropical storm that knocked out power in my area for several days. I discovered that I was able to pick up signals from the major TV stations and read scrolling text messages at the bottom of my 3-in. screen. I concluded that it should be possible for hand-held portable TVs to display closed captions as well. It is essential for the deaf and hearing impaired community to have access to emergency information 24-7 in several alternative formats: TVs, both standard and portable, PCs, hand-held wireless devices, and so on. The FCC should rescind the 13-in. limit immediately.